70 fires were existing in Jharia Coalfield of BCCL since long time before nationalisation of Coking coal mines in 1971. After nationalisation of coal mines concerted efforts have been made for dealing with major fires existing in Jharia Coalfield. BCCL have formulated 22 schemes with the sanctioned amount of Rs. 114.57 crores. These schemes are under different stages of implementation. An amount of Rs. 71 crores have been spent so far for implementation of these fire projects As a result of these efforts. 5 fires have been fully extinguished. In addition at 3 sites the protective measures required to deal with the fires have been completed and it will take some more time before these fires are completely extinguished. At another 13 sites also fires have been contained and further work to completely extinguish these fires is in progress. Further work has also started at 6 more fire sites in Mukunda Block with the help of Soviet experts It is expected that many more existing fires would be controlled by 1994-95.

10 active fires are also existing in the mines of CCL CCL has formulated the schemes to control these fires. It is expected that all these fires would be controlled by 1994-95.

Recruitment of Pilots

4607. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pilots recruited by the Indian Airlines and the Air India during 1989-90 and 1990-91 separately;

(b) the number of ex-servicemen out of them: and

(c) the relaxation. if any, provided to the ex-servicemen in their selection ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines recruited 105 and 20 trainee pilots in 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively. There were no ex-Servicemen selected. There is a relaxation in age of five years for the ex-Servicemen.

Air India selected 10 Co-pilots each in 1989-90 and 1990-91. The ex-Servicemen candidates selected were 7 and 1 respectively Air India also selected 29 and 18 trainee pilots in 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively. with no ex-Servicemen selected. Air India does not offer any relaxation to ex-Servicemen candidates.

Airbus A-320

[English]

4608 DR. S P. YADAV Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated loss suffered by the Government so far due to grounding of Airbus A-320: and

(b) the expenditure incurred on the airbuses for putting them into operation ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The loss to Indian Airlines during 40 weeks of grounding of Airbus A-320 fleet is estimated to be Rs. 171.60 crores.

(b) No extra expenditure. other than routine maintenance expenditure. was incurred on the aircraft for putting them back into operation.